

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A user interface of a machine tool, the user interface comprising:
 - a display that is divided into at least a first display region and a second display region,
 - wherein the first display region permanently displays a main menu that comprises a plurality of permanently displayed menu-fields for selecting different main activity modes of the machine tool, wherein each menu-field corresponds to one of the main activity modes of the machine tool,
 - wherein each main activity mode is associated with a main window such that a respective main window is opened in the second display region when the menu-field of the associated main activity mode is selected in the main menu,
 - wherein the main windows are displayed one at a time depending on the main activity mode selected in the main menu,
 - wherein at least one of the main windows comprises a submenu comprising a plurality of submenu-fields for selecting subitems, each submenu-field corresponding to a different subitem of the main activity associated to said main window,
 - wherein the submenu-fields are permanently displayed in said main window, when the respective main window is opened, and each submenu-field is associated with a subwindow such that the subwindow is opened in said main window when its associated submenu-field is selected, and
 - wherein one or more of the main windows and the subwindows include input fields; and
 - an input unit for selecting the individual menu-fields and submenu-fields and for processing the input fields provided in a window,

wherein the first display region permanently displays which one of the main activity modes of the machine tool is selected, and

wherein, if in an original main activity mode, a particular subwindow was opened and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode, then if the user switches back to the original main activity mode, the particular subwindow is opened upon return into the original main activity mode.

2. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the menu-field of the selected main activity mode is marked in the main menu.

3. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the subwindows comprises a permanently displayed sub-submenu for selecting different sub-submodes of a selected submode and a sub-subwindow associated with each sub-submode such that a sub-subwindow is opened when its associated sub-submode is selected.

4. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 3, wherein at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows comprises:

a navigation menu for selecting different navigation modes that each graphically represent a region of the machine tool, and

a navigation window associated with each navigation mode such that a navigation window is opened within the at least one main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow when its associated navigation mode is selected.

5. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 3, wherein if, in an original main activity mode, a particular sub-subwindow or navigation window was opened, and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode, if the user switches back to the original main activity mode from the other main activity mode, the particular sub-subwindow or navigation window is opened upon return into the original main activity mode.

6. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 3, wherein at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows comprises at least one activity button for processing input fields provided therein, in which each activity button is associated with an activity button window.

7. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 6, wherein when an activity button window is opened, switching-over to a different main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow of the same main activity mode is blocked.

8. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 4, wherein a sequence of the individual submodes, sub-submodes, and navigation modes within one main activity mode is oriented on the workflow of the machine tool.

9. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 3, characterized in that at least one of the submenus and the sub-submenus is designed as tab menu bar.

10. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the display and the input unit are formed by a touch screen.

11. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the main windows or the subwindows comprises:

- a navigation menu for selecting different navigation modes that each graphically represent a region of the machine tool; and
- a navigation window associated with each navigation mode such that a navigation window is opened within at least one main window or subwindow when its associated navigation mode is selected.

12. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the main windows or the subwindows comprises at least one activity button for processing input fields provided therein, in which each activity button is associated with an activity button window.

13. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the main menu is displayed as a menu bar.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing with a user of a machine tool, the method comprising:

displaying a first display region in a display;

displaying a second display region in the display;

permanently displaying a main activity menu in the first display region, wherein the main activity menu comprises a plurality of menu-fields for selecting different main activity modes of the machine tool, wherein the menu-fields are permanently displayed in the main menu for selection, and wherein each main activity mode is associated with a main window such that the main window is opened in the second display region when its associated menu-field is selected in the main menu;

~~displaying~~ opening the main windows in the second display region one at a time depending on the menu-field selected in the main menu;

permanently displaying a submenu in at least one of the main windows, when said main window is opened, wherein the submenu comprises a plurality of submenu-fields for selecting subitems, each submenu-field corresponding to a different subitem of the main activity that corresponds to the main activity mode associated to said main window and associated with a subwindow such that the subwindow is opened in said main window when its associated submenu-field is selected;

opening a subwindow when its associated submenu-field is selected;

displaying input fields in one or more of the main windows and the subwindows;

enabling selection of one or more of a main activity mode or a submode through an input unit;
processing the input fields at the input unit;
permanently displaying in the first display region which menu-field of the main activity modes is selected;
opening a particular subwindow in an original main activity mode;
receiving a selection to switch from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode;
receiving a selection to switch from the other main activity mode back to the original main activity mode; and
opening the particular subwindow upon return to the original main activity mode.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising marking the menu-field of the selected main activity mode in the main menu.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
permanently displaying in at least one of the subwindows a sub-submenu that enables selection of different sub-submodes of a selected submode;
associating with each sub-submode a sub-subwindow; and
opening a sub-subwindow when its associated sub-submode is selected.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
presenting a navigation menu having different navigation modes in at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows, wherein each navigation mode represents a region of the machine tool;
associating a navigation window with each navigation mode; and
opening a navigation window within the at least one main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow when its associated navigation mode is selected.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
opening a particular sub-subwindow or navigation window in an original main activity mode; and
receiving a selection to switch from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode;
receiving a selection to switch from the other main activity mode back to the original main activity mode; and
opening the particular sub-subwindow or navigation window upon return to the original main activity mode.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
presenting an activity button in at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows, wherein an activity button supports processing of input fields provided in the at least one main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow; and
associating each activity button with an activity button window.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising blocking switching to a different main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow of a main activity mode when an activity button window is opened.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising designing at least one of the submenus or sub-submenus as a tab menu bar.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the main activity modes include at least one of production, setting, programming, maintenance, start-up, and diagnosis.

23. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the main activity modes include at least one of production, setting, programming, maintenance, start-up, and diagnosis.

24. (Previously Presented) A user interface of a machine tool, the user interface comprising:

a display that is divided into at least a first display region and a second display region,
wherein the first display region permanently displays a main menu that comprises a plurality of permanently displayed menu-fields for selecting different main activity modes of the machine tool, wherein each menu-field corresponds to one of the main activity modes of the machine tool,
wherein each main activity mode is associated with a main window such that a respective main window is opened in the second display region when the menu-field of the associated main activity mode is selected in the main menu,
wherein the main windows are displayed one at a time depending on the main activity mode selected in the main menu,
wherein at least one of the main windows comprises a submenu comprising a plurality of submenu-fields for selecting subitems, each submenu-field corresponding to a different subitem of the main activity associated to said main window,
wherein the submenu-fields are permanently displayed in said main window, when the respective main window is opened, and, each submenu-field is associated with a subwindow such that the subwindow is opened in said main window when its associated submenu-field is selected, and
wherein one or more of the main windows and the subwindows include input fields; and
an input unit for selecting the individual menu-fields and submenu-fields and for processing the input fields provided in a window,
wherein the menu-field of the selected main activity mode is permanently marked in the permanently displayed main menu, and

wherein, if in an original main activity mode, a particular subwindow was opened and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode; then, if the user switches back to the original main activity mode, the particular subwindow is opened upon return into the original main activity mode, and wherein at least one of the main windows and the subwindows comprises at least one activity button for processing input fields provided therein, in which each activity button is associated with an activity button window, wherein when said activity button window is opened by selection of the associated activity button, switching-over to a different subwindow of the same main activity mode is blocked.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of interfacing with a user of a machine tool, the method comprising:

displaying a first display region in a display;

displaying a second display region in the display;

permanently displaying a main activity menu in the first display region, wherein the main activity menu comprises a plurality of menu-fields for selecting different main activity modes of the machine tool, wherein the menu-fields are permanently displayed in the main menu for selection, and wherein each main activity mode is associated with a main window such that the main window is opened in the second display region when its associated menu-field is selected in the main menu;

displaying opening the main windows in the second display region one at a time depending on the menu-field selected in the main menu;

permanently displaying a submenu in at least one of the main windows, when said main window is opened, wherein the submenu comprises a plurality of submenu-fields for selecting subitems, each submenu-field corresponding to a different subitem of the main activity that corresponds to the main activity mode associated to said main window and associated with a subwindow such that the subwindow is opened in said main window when its associated submenu-field is selected;

opening a subwindow when its associated submenu-field is selected;
displaying input fields in one or more of the main windows and the subwindows;
enabling selection of one or more of a main activity mode or a submode through an input unit;
processing the input fields at the input unit;
permanently marking the menu-field of the selected main activity mode in the permanently displayed main menu;
opening a particular subwindow in an original main activity mode;
receiving a selection to switch from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode;
receiving a selection to switch from the other main activity mode back to the original main activity mode; and opening the particular subwindow upon return to the original main activity mode, and
presenting an activity button in at least one of the main windows and subwindows, wherein an activity button supports processing of input fields provided in at least on main window or subwindow and
associating each activity button with an activity button window that is opened by selection of the associated activity button, and
blocking switching to a different subwindow of the same main activity mode, when the activity button window is opened.